Backward communities and the Intermediate Examination.

164. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of students from among the Backward Communities who appeared for the last Intermediate Examination and the number from each section who were successful ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN :

Number appeared	*Number passed.*
8	4

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: ഇതിൽ പാസായിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്ന നാലുപേർ ഏതെല്ലാം ജാതിയിൽപ്പെട്ടവരാണെന്നു പറയാൻ മയവുണ്ടാകുമോ ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN: One Barber and three Pulayas.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(contd.)

DEMAND XII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT, ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE AND LOCAL FUND AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 2,52,166 under Demand XII—General Administration—Financial Secretariat, Accountant-General's Office and Local Fund Audit Department.

Motion No. 173.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I move:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,116 for Financial Secretariat by Re. 1."

The object of this motion is to discuss about the necessity of effecting changes in the prescribed forms with a view to observe economy. I need hardly state here the necessity for observing strict economy in the use of paper. People of this country are extremely grateful to Government for their praisworthy efforts to make as much quantity of paper as possible available for the use of the public and also to increase the local production of paper by giving sufficient encouragement to cottage industries. Sir, many of the prescribed forms that are used by Government at the present time are forms prescribed by the Financial Secretariat and the Accountant-General's Office many, many years ago when there was no scarcity for paper. When the Government have been pleased to circularise all the Departments that they should be very careful in observing strict economy in the use of paper, it is only natural to suggest some methods for achieving that very laudable object.

Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech on this matter and I believe it will suffice my purpose if I give a few examples. Take for instance the present T. A. Bill Forms. We find that one full foolscap

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paper is used for that purpose. After all we want to know the total distance travelled, the prescribed rate, days halted, and the total amount; also the mode of conveyance and the place from which the amount has to be drawn. For such a simple matter four sides of a foolscap paper with ever so many things printed on them are being used. It is high time for Goverment to look into this very important question. Unless this is done by the Financial Secretary, who has issued circulars to the effect, "use less paper" there is no scope for substantial improvements in matters of the kind. It is only to bring this urgent need that I was compelled to move this motion. I have given only an example. There are very many cases like this. With these words I move the motion.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is it not necessary in the case of Officers who have to tour for a large number of days to fill in many details in this form before it is presented?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The present form need not be so large even for Officers who are touring throughout the month. It is enough if the total distance, the rates, the amount and other essential—particulars are given in a consolidated and as concise a manner as possible, to meet the real object and purpose for which the form is prescribed.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: Sir, with regard to these T. A. bills.

SADASYATILKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The motion has not been seconded.

PRESIDENT: It is not necessary to second cut motions.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: In regard to these T. A. bills detailed entries are necessary. The utmost economy is being practised in the use of paper. The question of reducing the size of the forms will be considered and action taken at the time of printing the form next. Whenever forms are reprinted steps will be taken to reduce the size.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion No. 176.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,116 for Financial Secretariat by Re. 1."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr; M. R.Narayana Pillai]

This motion is intended for stressing the necessity of preparing the budget more properly so that there will be no scope for unnecessary doubts arising. The budget may be prepared with a little more detail so that members of the Assembly and others who want to get a little more information may get it. As an instance, I will refer the House to page 50 of the Preliminary Budget. There is an item for petrol under the "Transport Department" with an allotment of Rs. 2 lakhs for 1118. In fact, there was an additional allotment of Rs. 4 lakhs granted by this House on a Supplementary Demand and up to the end of Dhanu 1118 a sum of more than Rs. 3 lakhs was actually spent under this Head. I got that information from Mr. Salter.

That being so, it would have been better to show in the column "Revised Estimates" the amount that was granted by this House under the Supplementary Grant as well.

Then turning to Pages 209 and 211, we find this. On page 20 under Executive Engineers, non-voted charges is shown to be Rs. 36,679. The amount shown under "Temporary Executive Engineer" is Rs. 4,400 (page 211) and under Executive Engineers is Rs. 36,195. It is not known how this Rs. 36,679 was arrived at. That has also not been explained there.

With regard to page 245, there is the provision for the salary of the Director of Food Supplies. No details are given under that Head. But we are not allowed to discuss that. The amount is provided under "Miscellaneous, Political Expenses. But I may point out that under the "Department of Agriculture, there is a sum of Rs. 4,800 provided for as salary of the Agricultural Director. When this is there, and at the same time, if the permanent Director of Agriculture is carrying on the duties of the Director of Food Supplies, there is no need for double provision.

In answer to admitted question No. 210, (answered as question No. 116) the honourable member, Mr. Damodaran Asan, replied that Rs. 213,00,000 was the total amount spent for the supply of food materials so far. We have here only a cash balance of Rs. 108,00,000 and that by the end of this year, it will only be Rs. 120,00,000. I do not know how it was possible to spend Rs. 2¼ crores without sufficient cash.

The Financial Secretary, in his budget speech, on page 14, says that the two crores would be needed as standing Advances for the Supply of Food Materials. That is also a defect in the "cash balance." I do not know how it can be reconciled.

Gilt-edged securities are also mentioned. I do not think it would be advisable to convert gilt-edged securities for finding money for the supply of foodstuffs. We do not part with the whole amount for ever; we are paying money and purchasing rice &c. at the same time, when we are selling the stuff out, we get back the money. Therefore the total amount of Rs. 213,00,000 should not be entered there under "Expenditure under Advances."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT : May I just have a word? The honourable member has the right to think very properly under what head each item should come.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : On page 260, under "(a) Advances Repayable (3) iii. Agriculture," there is an entry in the budget estimates column for 1118 of Rs. 30,000 and in the Revised Estimates column, Rs. 50,000. It should actually be Rs. 80,000 because this Rs. 50,000 was also spent under Section 32 and a statement laid on the Table. It may be due either to an over-sight or to some other consideration.

On page 12, we see a heading "Advances Repayable." Advances repayable, generally, is not an asset. It is a liability on the Government, but here it is shown as an asset.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Advances made by Government

PRESIDENT : Please leave it. The honourable member has a right to have his own views on the matter.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : "Capital expenditure on productive works". Generally, capital expenditure is not treated as an asset because it is not convertible into cash. If it is an investment like gilt-edged securities, we can understand.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : There is one point which I wish to submit to this House. That is as regards the publication of the "Travancore Information."

PRESIDENT : But that does not come within the Financial Secretariat.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : I am coming to that. I move it here because the Financial Secretary is the person who makes provision for these in the budget. If, for example, there is a particular heading under which certain sums are payable, this House will be able to regulate it by cut motions under that head.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*) : There was already a motion tabled for discussing that.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : That there was another motion.....

PRESIDENT : The simple question is, how does the Directorate of Information come within the scope of General Administration—Financial Secretariat? Will the honourable member explain that?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : My suggestion is that even under other headings, in the budget, there must be the opportunity for members of this House to discuss matters which may be relevant to that particular heading.

PRESIDENT : Have you not got a legitimate heading under 'Secretariat'?

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : My view is that it is the Financial Secretary who must put things under proper headings. So that——

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT: If the argument is pushed to its logical conclusion like that, the Police Grant might be discussed here for the simple reason that all things, including financial matters, connected with the administration of that department, have to be done by the Financial Secretary. As a matter of fact, the Directorate of Information is a part of the Secretariat, and as a part of the Secretariat, it has to be kept within the four corners of the Secretariat budget. And I remember, as the honourable Legal Remembrancer pointed out, that there was a cut motion suggested in reference to the Directorate of Information under the previous demand. The fact that this House was so interested in Shorthand Writers and the manner of their recruitment, that they spent nearly 1½ hours out of the available two hours on that subject, cannot constitute a reasonable argument even if it happens to be put forward by an assiduous, intelligent public man like Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. They had the opportunity to discuss Travancore Information, but they chose to discuss Shorthand Writers.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: I bow to the ruling. All that I meant to say was that if the budget was properly prepared

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I hold this motion out of order.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: The honourable member has referred to certain imperfections in the preparation of the budget.

As regards petrol on page 50, it will be seen that the revised estimate is more than Rs. 7 lakhs while the budget estimate is about Rs. 3 lakhs. Whatever amount is possible to be spent during the year is shown under the revised estimates. Of course, details of the several items in the revised estimate might have been shown. The honourable member's suggestion will be noted, and from next year onwards the details of items will be furnished.

As regards the provision for Executive Engineers, he wanted to know the details for the non-voted charges of Rs. 36,679 on page 209. On page 211, the first item is Executive Engineers, Rs. 36,195 and under Temporary Executive Engineers, Rs 4,400 has been provided. The expenditure on Public Works Establishment is distributed pro-rata under the several works, expenditure heads. This accounts for the decrease in the total amount.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Whenever we find an amount in italics, we take it that it is non-voted. The item under Temporary Executive Engineers, Rs. 4,400 is shown in italics. And the first item—Executive Engineers, Rs. 36,195 and Temporary Executive Engineers, Rs. 4,400, together do not come to Rs. 36,679. That is all that I want to know.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: I said that it is distributed under other heads also.

As regards the details under 'Food Supplies Director', the estimates were received in the Financial Secretariat only a few days before the budget was sent to print, because Government had not decided till then whether to continue the establishment or not. Therefore it was not possible to show more details than are entered here.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Anyhow if the establishment continues next year—and, by the grace of God, we will hope no such necessity will arise—more details will be shown.

As regards the provision for the Director of Agricultural we do not know when an officiating Director may be apponted. Therefore it is necessary to make the full provision.

As regards the Food Supplies Advances, under debit it is Rs. 305 lakhs and under credit it is Rs. 120 lakhs.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I want the answer to question No. 116.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: The amount has already been spent. There is therefore no question of touching the present cash balance as the amount was spent from the previous cash balance.

As regards the Agricultural Advances, of course it is true that Rs. 25,000 was provided in the first instance and Rs. 50,000 was additionally voted, but the revised estimate has to show the amount which is to be spent and not the original provision plus the additional allotment.

The member has also raised the question whether 'Advances Repayable' is an asset. It is an asset as it represents advances granted by the Government.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: If it is given as 'recoverable' I can understand.

MR. A. LAKSHMINARAYANA AYYAR: "Repayable" is also the expression used elsewhere. It means 'repayable by others.' As regards the capital expenditure being shown as an asset, I may explain that Government borrow money for productive schemes from the open market or from others. Then the money is invested in the concern, and the concern is an asset of the Government. Against the liability for the loan, the asset is the productive scheme and nothing more.

The motion, by leave, was withdrawn.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 2,52,166 under Demand XII—General Administration—Financial Secretariat, Accountant-General's office and Local Fund Audit Department, was put and carried.

The motion was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 65,300 under Demand XIII—General Administration—Legislative Bodies.

PRESIDENT: For obvious reasons and in order to give the fullest scope for discussion, I am not going to curtail any discussion on the first two items on the motion paper. Though the two cut motions are really out of order, I am going to allow discussion on them consistently with the time limit.

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